

Remarks

This Submission accompanies a Request for Continued Examination. Claims 1-6, 9-17, 19 and 20 are pending in the application. Claims 1-6, 9-17, 19 and 20 stand rejected. The Advisory Action mailed on May 16, 2006 has been carefully considered and the pending rejections noted. Applicant now traverses the rejections in light of the following arguments.

Claims 1-6, 9-11, 14-17 and 19-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over US patent number 6,580,870 to Kanazawa et al. (*hereinafter* Kanazawa).

As previously discussed in the Response of April 10, 2006, the present application relates to a system and method for transmitting, decoding and displaying data channel information in a format that permits enhanced graphics functionality. Included, are a method and apparatus for using DVD sub-picture formatted information within an MPEG data stream to provide data channel information to a receiver.

Claim 1 recites:

A method for providing graphics display, comprising the steps of:
receiving a bitstream including an MPEG compliant program bitstream and a DVD subpicture compliant bitstream...wherein the DVD subpicture compliant bitstream comprises an interactive graphic having selectable regions that, when selected, causes the display of other DVD subpicture graphics associated with said subpicture compliant bitstream. Emphasis added.

The Kanazawa reference relates to "a system for reproducing AV information,

[such as] a reproducing system having an external access function that acquires related information connected with the reproduced stream information from resources on a computer network," (emphasis added). Column 1, lines 8-12. Kanazawa describes "a reproducing system which reproduces AV information from a storage medium, such as a DVD, and which is capable of not only reproducing normal titles but also easily acquiring related information connected with specific stream information from resources on a computer network," (emphasis added). Column 1, line 56-61. Kanazawa further describes "a system which enables DVD video titles to be combined with the Internet ... where DVD video titles are combined with hypermedia contents, such as HTML files, provided on the Internet," (emphasis added). Column 2, lines 2-7.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully reviewing the arguments offered in the Response of April 10, 2006, and notes the responsive arguments presented in the now-pending Advisory Action. In declining to withdraw the now-pending rejection, the Advisory Action of May 16, 2006 states that "[t]he present invention can be applied not only to... DVD... but also to some other systems..." Kanazawa Column 8, lines 46-49. The Advisory Action goes on to note that "... the present invention can be applied to a reproduction system designed mainly for TV broadcasting or CATV (such a system is also called "set top box" IRD..." Column 8, lines 54-56.

The Advisory Action further asserts that "figures 10A-13C as described in column 6, line 61-column 8, line 1+, illustrates various displays audio/video program with sub-picture and hotspots or scene 90-96, received via broadcast and decoded, using MPEG decoder 112 or DVD decoder 112," and further references column 14, lines 40-65 to support this assertion.

Applicant respectfully submits that neither the above-cited material, nor any other aspect of the Kanazawa reference serves to teach or suggest the unique combination of features recited in claim 1. In particular, Kanazawa does not teach or suggest "[a] method for providing graphics display, comprising the steps of receiving a bitstream including an MPEG compliant program bitstream and a DVD subpicture compliant bitstream...wherein the DVD subpicture compliant bitstream comprises an interactive graphic having selectable regions that, when selected, causes the display of other DVD subpicture graphics associated with said subpicture compliant bitstream," (emphasis added)."

In support of this position, Applicant notes that in the language of Kanazawa, "... digital video information (including still pictures) and digital audio information are generally called AV information." Column 1, lines 17-19.

From the DVD, the reproducing system reproduces stream information in specific coding streams (or consecutive bit data strings) corresponding to the specified title (for example, movie), thereby reproducing the AV information on the screen consecutively," (emphasis added). Column 1, lines 30-34.

But AV information is "title information"

AV information (hereinafter, referred to as title information) 40a and an information management table 40b are stored as shown in FIG. 2. The title information 40a is, for example, multimedia information, such as movies, and is

coded stream (consecutive bit data string) information encoded by, for example, the MPEG-2 moving picture coding scheme. The title information 40a generally includes control information conforming to, for example, the DVD standard (i.e., management information such as navigation commands related to data playback control) as well as the stream information. Emphasis added. Column 4, line 66-column 5, line 9.

In light of the foregoing, it is clear that, according to Kanazawa, AV information includes title information, which is to say the information that is reproduced (e.g., displayed on a screen) to produce a particular movie, still picture, or audio information program. There is nothing to suggest that AV information includes DVD subpicture graphics, however.

It should be noted that "title information" is different from the "information management table 40b" of Kanazawa. Both of these may, according to Kanazawa, be acquired from stream data acquired with a "set-top box".

[A] set top box"... can acquire stream data corresponding to the title information 40a. Further, in such a reproduction system, it is possible to employ a configuration in which the information management table 40b is acquired separately from stream data. Column 8, lines 56-61.

Here title information is acquired in the stream data received by the set-top box. Also acquired from the stream data is a management table 40b. Referring to figure 3, one sees that "... information management table 40b is composed of pieces of

identification information (area information on DVD 40) ST-1 to ST-n for identifying individual streams in the title information 40a and access information (or link information) 30." Column 5, lines 13-17.

An information management table 40b does not, however, teach or suggest the recited features of claim 1 including "a bitstream including an MPEG compliant program bitstream and a DVD subpicture compliant bitstream...wherein the DVD subpicture compliant bitstream comprises an interactive graphic". To the contrary, the "identification information... ST-1 to ST-n [identifies] individual streams in the title information" and:

The access information (link information) 30 is information (URL display related information) to connect to resources (Web servers) for accessing a Web page corresponding to a specific piece of stream information in the individual streams (ST-1 to ST-n) or to the entire stream. For example, the system is connected to a Web server corresponding to the access information (§n) and a Web page corresponding to stream ST-n is accessed. Emphasis added. Column 5, lines 46-53.

To summarize, according to Kanazawa, a "set top box... can acquire stream data corresponding to the title information 40a... [and an] information management table 40b..." However, neither "title information" nor an "information management table" includes, teaches or suggests the claimed features of "a DVD subpicture compliant bitstream...wherein the DVD subpicture compliant bitstream comprises an interactive graphic." Consequently, Kanazawa does not anticipate or render obvious the unique

combination of features recited in claim 1. Therefore the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Kanazawa should be withdrawn and claim one should be allowed.

Claims 2-6 and 9 each depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1 and incorporate every feature thereof. Accordingly, for at least the reasons given above in relation to claim 1, the rejections of claims 2-6 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Kanazawa should be withdrawn and allowance of these claims is in order.

Claim 10 recites the features of:

... means for receiving a bitstream comprising a MPEG compliant bitstream and a DVD subpicture compliant bitstream;... wherein the DVD subpicture compliant bitstream comprises an interactive graphic having selectable regions that, when selected, causes the display of other DVD subpicture graphics associated with said subpicture compliant bitstream. Emphasis added.

As discussed above in relation to claim 1, Kanazawa does not teach or suggest "a display processor ... for displaying said output image, wherein the DVD subpicture compliant bitstream comprises an interactive graphic having selectable regions that, when selected, causes the display of other DVD subpicture graphics associated with said subpicture compliant bitstream," as recited in claim 10. As such, the rejection of claim 10 under 35 USC §102(e) over Kanazawa should be withdrawn.

Claims 11 and 14-17 ultimately depend from, and incorporate the features of, claim 10. Accordingly, for the reasons given above in relation to claim 10, the rejections of claims

11 and 14-17 under 35 USC §102(e) should also be withdrawn.

Claims 19 and 20 include the pertinent features of claim 1. Consequently, claims 19 and 20 are believed to also be allowable for at least the reasons provided above in relation to claim 1. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 19 and 20 under 35 USC §102(e) over Kanazawa is requested to be withdrawn.

Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kanazawa in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,211,800, to Yanagihara et al. (*hereinafter* Yanagihara), and Claim 13 stands rejected over Kanazawa in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,344,836, to Suzuki (*hereinafter* Suzuki). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Claims 12 and 13 each depend indirectly from claim 10. Accordingly, each of claims 12 and 13 incorporate every feature of claim 10. As demonstrated above, the Kanazawa reference does not teach every feature of claim 10, and nothing in Yanagihara or Suzuki, whether taken alone or in combination with any other reference of record, serves to remedy this defect. Consequently, for at least the reasons given above in relation to claim 10, the rejections of claims 12 and 13 under 35 USC §103(a) over Kanazawa in view of Yanagihara and Suzuki respectively should be withdrawn.

Having fully addressed the pending rejections it is believed that this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly then, reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

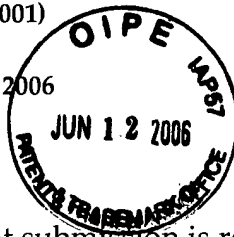
This submission is accompanied by a Petition for Extension of Time that is

Docket No.: RCA-88878 (T2000-0002-P001)

Ser. No. 09/603,339

Final Office Action dated: January 11, 2006

Response dated: June 12, 2006

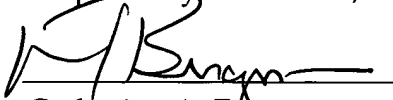
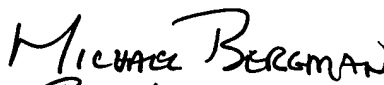


intended to ensure that the present submission is received during the pendency of the subject application. Nevertheless, the Commissioner is hereby petitioned, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 (a), to further extend the time for filing a response to an outstanding Office Action, or any communication filed in this application by this firm, by the number of months which will avoid abandonment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.135.

If the enclosed papers or fees are considered incomplete, the Patent Office is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned collect at (609) 734-6440 in Princeton, NJ. The Commissioner is hereby also authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this company) to Deposit Account No. 07-0832 of Thompson Licensing Inc. under Order No. RCA 88,878.

Dated: June 12, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

TSy:  
Catherine A. Ferguson
Reg. No.: 42,318

Registration No.: 40,877

Patent Operations

THOMSON Licensing Inc.

P.O. Box 5312

Princeton, New Jersey 08543-5312

609-734-6440

Attorney for Applicant[s]